

Meeting 22

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Meeting 22

Date: Wednesday, 13 January 2010

Venue: Office of the President

Time: 13:00 hrs

Attendance:

Name	Institution
His Excellency President Jagdeo	Office of the President
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President
Michael Brotherson	Office of the President
Edward Dreyfus	Office of the President
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
Alfred King	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
Dr. Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association (FPA)
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)
William Woolford	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Jocelyn Dow	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Carvil Duncan	Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG)
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trades Union Congress(GTUC)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Romel Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
Mimi Fernandes	Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)
David Singh	Conservation International (CI)
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity
David James	Individual Capacity

Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund	Excused
Vanda Radzik	IIED	Excused
Yvonne Pearson	National Toshaos Council	Excused
Pamela Mendonca	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana	Excused
Gerry Gouveia	Private Sector Commission	Absent
Lester Fleming	National Toshaos Council	Absent
Sydney Allicock	North Rupununi District Development Board	Absent
Jean La Rose	Amerindian People's Association	Absent by Choice

1. Call to Order

His Excellency President Jagdeo opened the meeting.

2. Announcements and Correspondence

There was no announcement or correspondence.

3. Updates and Reports

FAO and CIFOR Reports

- 3.1 His Excellency stated that the FAO and CIFOR reports should be circulated, along with the GFC comments on the CIFOR report, to the MSSC.
- 3.2 Mr. James Singh and Mr. Shyam Nokta indicated that the reports were already been circulated to the MSSC.
- 3.3 Following discussions, His Excellency advised that the GFC convene a meeting of the members of the MSSC to review the reports.
- 3.4 Mr. Joe Singh enquired if CIFOR will change their report based on the comments from the MSSC.
- 3.5 His Excellency said that whether or not CIFOR is willing to change their report, the MSSC should have a position so that a statement can be made that Guyana accepts the report with the views/comments identified by the MSSC. His Excellency urged all members of the MSSC to participate in the Meeting.

LCDS

- 3.6 The President stated that discussions need to take place to determine how the MSSC will proceed in the new year. H.E. said that there will be a 3-month timeline to finalise the LCDS, which in effect means 2 months are remaining to complete the finalising. H.E indicated that by February the 2nd draft LCDS should be revised based o the Copenhagen outcome and thereafter stakeholder engagements and consultations will commence.
- 3.7 The MSSC was informed of a proposal by the National Toshao's Council to undertake "Public Sensitisation on LCDS in Amerindian Communities" utilising financial resources expected from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).
- 3.8 His Excellency indicated that in the implementation, the NTC should work in collaboration with the OCC and other sector Agencies.
- 3.9 Mr. Peter Persaud asked how the I-NGOs will be involved.
- 3.10 His Excellency said that the NTC will lead the process and will be expected to also involve the I-NGOs in their plans.
- 3.11 Minister Sukhai informed the MSSC that the proposal seeks support from the I-NGOs and the Government.
- 3.12 Mr. James Singh pointed out that REDD is an integral part of the LCDS and the money from the FCPF is also for consultations on the RPP.
- 3.13 The President said that while consultations for the RPP should be done separately, they are linked to the overall LCDS effort. His Excellency said that the GFC should collaborate with the OCC so that the consultations are specific to the issues at hand.

- 3.14 Mr. Shyam Nokta pointed out that Guyana is still waiting the funds from the FCPF.
- 3.15 His Excellency said that notwithstanding the lack of funds, Guyana needs to be prepared.

Mining and the LCDS

- 3.16 Ms. Jocelyn Dow stated that in the newspaper there was an article about 4-5 pages long with a number of issues relating to climate change, mining and the LCDS. Ms. Dow said that there were some substantive issues raised that should be addressed.
- 3.17 Mr. Andrew Bishop said that the article stated, among other things, that climate change is a hoax and there is a large amount of scientists that attest to the statement.
- 3.18 His Excellency stated that no response should be given when incredulous issues are raised. He said that the mining sector has made significant efforts to deal with matters relating to discontinuing the use of mercury and restoration/reclamation. H.E pointed out that there were four issues that predated the LCDS: restoration of lands, protocol to allow GFC and mining to work together, prospecting before mining and the phasing out of mercury. His Excellency noted that Government wants to collaborate with the miners but if it cannot be done, the Government will go ahead and get the tasks done.
- 3.19 Mr. Edward Shields said that he wanted to officially state that the GGDMA as an association expressed support for the LCDS and continues to do.
- 3.20 Mr. Joe Singh stated that the television station, Channel 9, showed a documentary on climate change and the article in the newspaper seems to be an extract of the documentary.
- 3.21 His Excellency said that there is a committee chaired by Minister Benn, which is working to bring some order to the mining sector. He stated that mining will not be stopped or regulated beyond what is stated in the Mining Act.
- 3.22 The President said that Mr. Woolford should start increasing the appropriate staff at the GGMC in preparation for ongoing monitoring and enforcement.
- 3.23 Mr. William Woolford stated that the GGMC has started the recruiting process.
- 3.24 His Excellency said that the GGMC should work with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs to get the communities involved.

Recording Norway Funds in the Budget

- 3.25 His Excellency stated that there is uncertainty on how to record the US\$30 Million from Norway in the National Budget so that it is reflected accurately without expanding the Budget deficit.
- 3.26 Mr. Edward Dreyfus enquired if it was possible to have an item in the Budget showing the money from Norway as revenue. He suggested that it can be recorded as payments for services or as sale of a product so can be recorded as export
- 3.27 The President stated that exports are not recorded in the Budget, but Guyana needs to find a way to offset the entry of 'financing' from Norway so that the IMF obligations on the deficit are not breached.
- 3.28 Ms. Jocelyn Dow suggested that maybe Guyana should set up a satellite account similar to the UN system.
- 3.29 His Excellency said that Guyana does not want a satellite account. The funds should be reflected in the Budget for transparency purposes.

- 3.30 His Excellency noted that other countries are dealing with the issue but Guyana is ahead of the pack and needs to find a way of recording the funds. With regard to the allocations of the Norway funds for 2010, His Excellency said US\$5 million will go to Amerindian development from the \$30 million, a portion could go towards a small grant funds while most of the remaining money could be put aside for hydro-power because of its catalytic impact. Those are three areas for the first year's expenditure.
- 3.31 Mr. Edward Dreyfus said that structuring the financing for the hydro project is complicated by the uncertainty of receiving the Norway funds. Because the funds will only be available each year if Guyana performs successfully under the Joint Agreement, Guyana cannot commit to this equity in the hydro project. If the use of the Norway funds for hydro project equity were certain, not contingent, Guyana could reduce project leverage, thereby enhancing its negotiating position with the IDB for the overall hydro financing.

Copenhagen

- 3.32 His Excellency stated that the discussions on Copenhagen will not be on the Accord, which will be dealt with separately by Mr. Andrew Bishop. H.E invited MSSC to offer their views on Copenhagen.
- 3.33 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that Guyana did a great job at Copenhagen. She noted that there was initially some nervousness when the President spoke about 2 Celsius, instead of the 1.5 being advocated by some groups and which in the end turned out to be the correct thing to suggest. Ms. Dow noted that CARICOM was pretty muted and that there was a collective energy in the Guyana delegation and high expectations, also pointing out that C.I played a crucial role in assisting with high profile meetings. Ms. Dow stated that the President led the team well and Mr. Andrew Bishop did a good job as well as Mr. Peter Persaud. She noted that the team had a good learning experience and it was a great step forward for the NGOs.
- 3.34 Mr. David James stated that the experience was great. He noted that it was unfortunate that the full team was not there in the first week to track responses but he was there early and was able to assist Mr. Andrew Bishop. Mr. James said there were many countries with hard positions and because they were inflexible it was difficult to move forward. This was the main reason the Conference ended as it did.
- 3.35 Mr. Peter Persaud expressed gratitude to His Excellency for inviting the I-NGOs as part of the delegation. Mr. Persaud said that he gained valuable experience going to Copenhagen and it was good to enlighten people on the position on climate change. There were protesters there but they supported the measures to mitigate climate change. The only unfortunate thing was there was no binding agreement from the Conference.
- 3.36 His Excellency said that a deal in Copenhagen could not be reached unless the US and China agreed to it. China moved for MRV but the US didn't. His Excellency stated that he was surprised that President Obama let Ms. Hilary Clinton make the bigger announcements than he [President Obama] did in his speech. He said that President Obama did not mention any new position apart from the ones that were already known.
- 3.37 His Excellency stated that the AOSIS group had some strong positions going into the negotiations. He said he suggested that CARICOM reposition. His Excellency stated that Grenada was disappointing. The Grenadian representative did not understand what was going on and had to be continually briefed during the negotiations. He noted that many countries were set on the 1.5 target but they accepted the deal which said countries will deliver 3C. And Grenada accepted the deal. H.E noted that the CARICOM Secretariat did very little nothing to mobilise and bring countries together before and during Copenhagen.

Acknowledgement

- 3.38 His Excellency stated that he wishes to thank everyone: all the members of the Guyanese delegation for their support, the MSSC for the work done in the several months, all of which has allowed Guyana to emerge as a leader on climate issues and which has led to Guyana now being the concrete beneficiaries for finance. His Excellency specifically thanked Mr. Andrew Bishop for his dedication and work ethic through the negotiations. Also, His Excellency thanked Mr. Shyam Nokta and the members of the OCC for the work done. H.E. stated he will at the appropriate time, publicly express his gratitude.

6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 His Excellency said that all the conditions for the MoU required at this stage, have been met except for the setting up of the GRIF and this is currently being worked on with the World Bank.
- 6.2 His Excellency stated that there have been several requests from Amerindians for 'opting in'. The process of 'opting in' needs to be determined. He said that the consultations need to be much more detailed than before to address specific issues of the communities with regard to the 'opting in' process.
- 6.3 Mr. Alfred King said that the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport is pursuing a space in the National Museum dedicated to the LCDS. It will display the giant sloth (15 ft big) in its natural environment and where forestry and mining can coexist and the impacts of climate change.
- 6.4 His Excellency stated that Mr. King should submit a project proposal to the MSSC for review.
- 6.5 Mr. Alfred King said that the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport also has a proposal for a float for Mashramani with an LCDS theme and which targets approximately 20,000 people.
- 6.6 Ms. Jocelyn Dow enquired what the mechanism for helping with the second draft is. Ms. Dow asked how the Drafting Committee will get involved in finalising the Second Draft of the LCDS.
- 6.7 His Excellency stated that suggestions can be sent to the Office of Climate Change.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

End of Minutes

A number of key points were made and follow up action identified. This is summarised below.

Key Points	Follow Up
Members of the MSSC to review the FAO and CIFOR reports.	GFC
The GGMC should work with MoAA and place an advertisement in the newspaper for recruiting staff	GGMC and MoAA
Submit a proposal for having an assigned portion of the National Museum dedicated to the LCDS	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport
Arrange brief to update the MSSC on the Copenhagen Accord and decision at COP.	Andrew Bishop